

**REMARKS**

**Claims 4, 10, 11, and 14** are pending in the above-identified patent application.

**Claims 1, 2, 3, 5 - 9, and 12 - 13** have been **Canceled**.

**Claims 15 - 39** have been **Withdrawn** in a prior office action response as part of a restriction requirement in the Office Action mailed **08 May 2003**.

In the above-referenced Office Action, **Claims 1, 2, 5, 7 - 9, and 12 - 13** are rejected under **35 U.S.C. §102(b)** as being anticipated by European Patent (**EP 1047095 A2**) to *Watabe et al.*

**Claims 2, 3, and 6** are rejected under **35 U.S.C. §103(a)** as being unpatentable over *Watabe et al. (EP 1047095 A2)* in view of *Yoshikawa et al. (US 5,990,605)*.

**Claims 4, 10, 11, and 14** are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim and would be allowable subject matter if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The Applicant believes that all claims as amended herein are enabled by the Specification. No new matter was introduced in amending the Claims.

## **THE PRESENT AMENDMENT**

Prior to proceeding to a detailed discussion of the merits of the outstanding objections to the Claims, it will first be helpful to summarize the changes made by the amendments set forth herein. The Claims as amended herein are set forth in the above **CLAIMS LISTING:** (see *Page 2* herein).

a. **Amendments to Claims 4, 10, and 14**

Applicant has amended **Claims 4, 10, and 14** to particularly point out and to distinctly claim the subject matter the Applicant regards as her invention and to rewrite those claims in independent format to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

i. **Amendment to Claim 4**

**Claim 4** has been amended herein to include the limitations of independent **Claim 1** and dependent **Claim 2**.

ii. **Amendment to Claim 10**

**Claim 10** has been amended herein to include the limitations of independent **Claim 1** and dependent **Claim 9**.

iii. **Status of Claim 11**

**Claim 11** was not amended because it now depends from amended **Claim 10**.

iv. **Amendment to Claim 14**

**Claim 14** has been amended herein to include the limitations of independent **Claim 1** and dependent **Claim 9**.

The Applicant respectfully submits that **Claims 4, 10, 11, and 14** as amended herein are not anticipated by, are not obvious, nor are unpatentable in view of the prior art of record and overcome the Examiners objections to **Claims 4, 10, 11, and 14** as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Therefore, the objections to **Claims 4, 10, 11, and 14** ought to now be withdrawn. Accordingly, **Claims 4, 10, 11, and 14** as amended herein are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are enabled by the Specification as originally filed and ought to now be allowed.

## CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth above, the Applicant respectfully submits that each of the Claims presently in the application are nonobvious and patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are enabled by the Specification as filled. The Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the objections to the Claims as set forth in the Office Action mailed **31 December 2003** and requests the issuance of a Notice of Allowance such that the present application may timely issue as a U.S. patent.

## AUTHORIZATION TO CHARGE FEES DUE TO HP PTO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

Any fees due in response to the Office Action mailed **31 December 2003**, including any fees for Extensions of Time, are Authorized to be charged to the HP PTO Deposit Account Number: **08-2025**.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:

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